



**STATEMENT**

**BY MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF**

**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**AICHI-NAGOYA COP10 PROMOTION COMMITTEE  
SYMPOSIUM**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two weeks after the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, I had the immense privilege of attending in this same Century Hall, the Kick-Off Symposium for the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the participation of more than 1,000 participants. Here we today for the Countdown event attended by more than 3,000 participants, one year before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This is a true reflection of the outstanding achievements of the Aichi-Nagoya COP10 Promotion Committee. My heartfelt congratulations to you, Governor Kanda and Mayor Kawamura, and all the people of Aichi/Nagoya and my sincere gratitude for your unique leadership.

In June 2008, I had the privilege of listening to the song *Our Lives in the Web of Life*, performed by 191 Aichi/Nagoya children, representing, at that time, the number of Parties to the Convention. Meanwhile, I am convinced that the *Yokoso COP10* that we will listen today will have to be performed on 19 October 2010, by 195 children representing the a newly universal Convention on Biological Diversity with the participation of the whole and united family of nations, including the United States of America. In this respect, I applaud the decision to award the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to United States President Barack Obama for his contribution to peace and security. Indeed, the unprecedented loss of biological diversity compounded by climate change is a direct threat to peace and security of the world.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will not be just another meeting; rather it will be a historic event that will mark the beginning of new era, a new dawn in the relation of man living in peace and in harmony with nature. While the world will be celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity, including at the level of Heads of State and Government, the biodiversity family will gather in Aichi/Nagoya to make its own contribution to this unique event in the life of the United Nations by adopting the Aichi/Nagoya Protocol on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Aichi/Nagoya International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing, as well as the Aichi/Nagoya 2020/2050 biodiversity target formulating a post-2010 Strategic Plan and a post-2010 biodiversity target. All three tasks, along with a formal assessment associated with a new strategic plan of the Convention which will coincide with a new United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

These achievements will be historic, not only by their content but also by the way they will be adopted with the participation, and therefore their full ownership, of all stakeholders.

The Japanese poet Ryunosuke Satoro said that: "Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean." I have no doubt that this spirit will guide and inspire the expected 10,000 participants at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, a meeting that will be remembered by generations to come as the historic Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. *Arigato* Aichi Prefecture, *Arigato* Nagoya City. *Arigato gozaimasu* Japan, government and people.

Thank you for your kind attention.